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ABSTRACT

This collection of abstracts is part of a continuing series providing information on recent doctoral dissertations. The 23 titles deal with a variety of topics, including the following: (1) Kansas scholastic newspaper content and management practices in a First Amendment context; (2) a historical analysis of new journalism; (3) how North Carolina's major newspapers covered their state university's desegregation controversy; (4) coverage of the Arab world and Israel in American news magazines between 1975 and 1981; (5) factors associated with the selection of stories from an international religion news service by daily newspapers; (6) global news flow issues; (7) the attitudes of news directors toward the fairness doctrine; (8) the agenda setting effect of crime news on prosecutors; (9) some effects of the repetition of environmental news stories; (10) the derived image of the supermarket tabloid; (11) negativism as a news selection predictor; (12) the "New York Times," U. S. foreign policy, and the Iranian revolution; (13) an analysis of newspaper coverage of the disaster at Love Canal; and (14) the social construction of journalistic reality. (HOD)

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Applegate, Edward Cray
A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF NEW JOURNALISM

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THE PRESS AND UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY: HOW NORTH CAROLINA'S MAJOR NEWSPAPERS COVERED THEIR STATE UNIVERSITY'S DESEGRATION CONTROVERSY

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A STUDY OF KANSAS SCHOLASTIC NEWSPAPER CONTENT AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN A FIRST AMENDMENT CONTEXT

Order No. DA8428961

ADAMS, DAVID LEE, PH.D. *Kansas State University*, 1984. 174pp.

The content of the scholastic press in American public high schools has changed greatly in recent years. This study was designed to determine the existing content and management practices of Kansas public high school newspapers. The sample consisted of the principal, the faculty adviser, and the student editor at 75 randomly selected schools which publish newspapers. Subjects responded to a 15-item questionnaire. The study sought to examine differences among three enrollment groups and three subject groups to questionnaire responses. The chi-square statistical test was used to determine significance at the .01 or .05 levels.

The descriptive study was divided into four research components: (1) newspaper background, (2) newspaper content, (3) newspaper management/press law knowledge, and (4) ensuring responsible newspapers and adviser background/selection. Thirteen research questions were answered, including these findings: (1) larger school newspapers have broader content and better-trained advisers than do the smaller schools; (2) student newspaper editors are not allowed to exercise their First Amendment rights to make the newspaper a true "forum for student expression"; (3) most school newspapers have not published "irresponsible" content, but most have content areas "not adequately covered"; (4) most respondents lack knowledge on scholastic press law, while most newspapers operate without written content guidelines; (5) a knowledgeable faculty adviser and talented student staff are the best ways to ensure responsible newspapers; and (6) a majority of mid-size and small school advisers appear to not meet minimum Kansas journalism certification requirements.

It is recommended that: (1) newspaper editors and faculty advisers be encouraged to broaden newspaper content to include social, political and non-school issues affecting students; (2) student editors be given more direct control over newspaper content as mandated by federal courts; (3) faculty advisers and student editors be allowed to expand the content scope of newspapers; (4) school officials and student editors develop written newspaper content guidelines and become knowledgeable on student press law; (5) school officials encourage responsible newspapers by providing needed resources; and (6) administrators select qualified faculty newspaper advisers and encourage those who are not to work rapidly toward proper certification.

A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF NEW JOURNALISM

Order No. DA8504334

APPLEGATE, EDWARD CRAY, ED.D. *Oklahoma State University*, 1984. 328pp.

Scope of Study. The primary purpose of this study was to examine certain writers and journalists, specifically examples of their writings, to show that they were using either the new notification, advocacy, or alternative form of new journalism. The secondary purposes were: (1) to disclose historically and chronologically the political and social climates in which each writer or journalist lived; (2) to show that new journalism was not actually new; (3) to show that political and social upheaval encouraged one or more forms of new journalism; and (4) to show that a link between new journalism and the realistic novel actually existed.

Findings and Conclusions. It was found that certain writers and journalists--from the late 1600s to the early 1980s--were using one or more of the new journalistic forms to present information, express ideas, or expose corruption. It was learned that certain forms of new journalism had roots going back some 300 years. Concurrently, it was found that certain political and social disturbances actually encouraged writers and journalists to use one or more of the mentioned forms of new journalism. Concurrently, it was learned that a link between realistic fiction and new journalism did exist. While writers of the new nonfiction used elements of the short story or novel to depict actuality, writers of realistic short stories and novels based plots on actual events. In certain cases, they merely changed the characters' names. Consequently, since the new journalists and the realistic novelists used the same elements to depict actuality and disguised actuality respectively, a commonality between the two forms was evident. Another observation suggested that writers of certain forms of new journalism, specifically the writers who used the advocacy and muckraking forms, had similar backgrounds, both educationally and professionally, and similar points of view.

Certain forms of new journalism are not new, but are in fact the oldest forms of journalism, especially when compared to the traditional form that is commonly referred to as objective journalism.

THE PRESS AND UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY: HOW NORTH CAROLINA'S MAJOR NEWSPAPERS COVERED THEIR STATE UNIVERSITY'S DESEGREGATION CONTROVERSY

Order No. DA8424776

BARCLAY, RUSSELL BARTLETT, PH.D. *Duke University*, 1984. 152pp. Supervisor: Michael Michlin

This study investigated how North Carolina's newspapers covered the story of their state university's desegregation controversy with the federal government. Much is written about education's role during challenging times, and much is written about education's effectiveness in bringing about social change. Little is known concerning the press's role during education related controversies which challenge prevailing distributions of power. This study begins to correct some of that oversight.

Using the concept hegemony, this study offers evidence that the sampled newspapers protected their state university system from potentially destabilizing perspectives during the desegregation controversy. The press typically accomplished this by casting the story as a political struggle between "right-thinking education authority" and "befuddled federal bureaucrats." They did this partly by quoting many more white status quo supporters than they quoted detractors. The sampled newspapers ignored the Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDF), the organization behind federal desegregation efforts, until it was too late to involve the LDF meaningfully in readers' perceptions of the controversy. The press quoted some blacks, but most were university employees or officials with much to lose in any desegregation-spawned rearrangement of colleges' racial compositions.

This study uses a content analysis of eight North Carolina newspapers and *The Washington Post* in order to measure the numbers of direct quotations--by quotation source--published during four sample months between March, 1978, and June, 1981. The content analysis was constructed and its results interpreted within current understanding and use of hegemony.

Hegemony is increasingly useful in education and media analysis to uncover an ideology's subtle ways of protecting itself from too-sudden changes. Hegemony, the domination of an ideology which basically controls how people organize and share meaning and understanding of their world, defends itself through consensus-generating institutions like schools and newspapers. In the case studied here, the press comfortably slid into an ideological interpretation of the controversy's issues and personalities unlikely to threaten readers or raise issues unresolvable within prevailing ways of doing things.

NEGATIVISM AS A NEWS SELECTION PREDICTOR

Order No. DA8429582

BOHLE, ROBERT HENRY, PH.D. *The University of Tennessee*, 1984. 111pp. Major Professor: Dr. Jack B. Haskins

The purpose of this study was to determine whether negativism in a news story is a significant predictor of story selection by journalists. Matched samples of journalists were given 10 news story leads. One sample saw a randomized list of positive and negative leads, while the other sample saw the leads in the same order, but the *opposite* positive or negative version.

Each subject rated each lead for importance, defined as whether he would select the story for tomorrow's newspaper. A 0-to-100 thermometer scale was used. All subjects also were presented all 10 pairs of positive and negative stories and asked to choose only one version for publication.

The hypotheses were that (1) journalists would rate the negative versions as more important than the positive versions in the split-sample test; (2) journalists would tend to select the negative version over the positive in the paired-version test; and (3) leads having the highest number of news values, as calculated by a news value *additivity index*, would receive the highest importance ratings from the journalists, and leads with low values, the lowest.

The first hypothesis was only mildly supported. Journalists rated the negative version more important on six of the 10 pairs, but only three showed significant differences. Overall, the difference between the versions was not significant.

The second hypothesis was more strongly supported. Journalists preferred the negative version over the positive in the forced-choice situation nine times out of 10, and four preferences were statistically significant. The overall preference for the negative (63 to 37 percent) also was significant.

The third hypothesis was supported. News value additivity index scores and mean importance ratings correlated positively at +0.79 ($p < .001$).

Negativism does seem to play a part in the news selection process, though perhaps not as strong as hypothesized. Negative news may hold more information of value than positive and it may influence news selection based on that factor and not raw negativity. Further studies of *on-the-job* news selections may yield more helpful data.

RELIGION IN THE NEWS: FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SELECTION OF STORIES FROM AN INTERNATIONAL RELIGION NEWS SERVICE BY DAILY NEWSPAPERS

Order No. DA8426641

BUDDENBAUM, JUDITH MITCHELL, PH D. *Indiana University*, 1984. 341pp.

This study uses observation, interviews and content analysis to examine how religion journalists for newspapers in the United States and for Lutheran World Information, a Geneva-based news service operated by the Lutheran World Federation, define and gather religion news. The study provides a detailed description of Lutheran World Information and of religion news stories provided by LWI and by three newspapers in the United States. It also explores factors that appear to explain and predict use of LWI by newspaper gatekeepers.

The study indicates that LWI is not merely a publicity bureau for the Lutheran World Federation. LWI sees itself as an alternate news agency of the kind favored by many Third World communication scholars. Although most news items supplied by LWI are written as relatively short news stories that emphasize news values American journalists are trained to seek, Third World news and views are stressed. Many stories about events and issues are one-sided accounts from the perspective of contributors.

Although LWI consciously refrains from shaping stories to fit the demands of American journalists, the news service is used rather extensively by religion journalists who believe LWI is an accurate source of information written from a distinctive religious perspective. However, use of LWI cannot be explained solely on the basis of the stories provided by this news service. Those journalists most likely to use LWI are members of churches compatible with Lutheranism, define religion news broadly, believe it is important to cover many different religious traditions, and say their readers use religion news for surveillance purposes. They also tend to work in strongly Lutheran regions and be employed by small newspapers with relatively large news holes. Use is also related to newspaper policies that include foreign news as part of the religion beat and that allow journalists to use printed sources of information.

FUSING FICTIONAL TECHNIQUE AND JOURNALISTIC FACT: LITERARY JOURNALISM IN THE 1890S NEWSPAPER

Order No. DA8422407

CONNERY, THOMAS BERNARD, PH.D. *Brown University*, 1984. 338pp.

This study shows that in the nineteenth century there arose a journalism with a literary purpose, a type of writing that combined the style of fiction with the reporting common to everyday journalism. Literary journalism, as it is called here, developed in response to changes in fiction and journalism, and although it occurred in magazines and newspapers, the focus here is on the urban newspaper and specifically the New York City newspaper.

As a result of developments in fiction and journalism, by the 1890s the human interest feature article, with its story-telling approach, was flourishing in journalism, while in fiction stories were so real that they were indeed believable. With newspaper reporters trying to make the facts of daily events more "interesting," and with fiction writers trying to make the products of their imaginations imitative of real life, it was only natural that at times fiction and journalism would almost merge, with the newspaper feature taking on the trappings of fiction, although it was not considered fiction.

Although the term literary journalist was not used in the 1890s, there were writers and critics who recognized the existence of creative reporting, and examples of literary journalism could be found in any number of New York City newspapers. But the *Commercial Advertiser*, edited by Lincoln Steffens, was the only paper that made it a goal to produce "literature" for its news pages.

To more clearly define the form, the literary journalism of four writers is analyzed. The four are Julian Ralph, Richard Harding Davis, Hutchins Hapgood, and Stephen Crane, whose writing exemplifies literary journalism that is complex and symbolic, with the power of fiction. These writers show how literary journalism draws upon themes and motifs revealed in the details of an event, or in the manners, morals, and actions of people who are neither imagined nor concocted. They do not create an illusion of reality, but describe reality, using an imagination restricted by the facts.

In conclusion, the development of literary journalism in the nineteenth century and its continued development in this century suggests that it is a distinct genre that should be judged by its own standards and not those of objective reporting or by fiction's standards of creative invention.

THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF JOURNALISTIC REALITY

Order No. DA8500576

GASSAWAY, BOB M., PH.D. *University of Missouri - Columbia*, 1984. 416pp. Supervisor: Dr. Daryl J. Hobbs

This study views the production of news reports--both print and broadcast--as the products of a social process and seeks to understand how the social process of "doing newswork" causes some events to become defined as newsworthy while an unknowably large number of other events remain in non-covered obscurity. The journalistic conceptualization of "objectivity" in news reporting is examined, and contrasted with the views put forth by a number of sociologists who consider news to be socially constructed accounts of those events that are defined as having news value.

The study uses data obtained through observation, interviews and use of a questionnaire among editors and reporters of a major Midwestern newspaper, interviews with other journalists, and interviews with persons who have functioned as confidential news sources for journalists.

The following conclusions are drawn: (1) news production is a social process limited by economic imperatives; (2) news coverage assignments made by editors pre-ordain some events as news and simultaneously deny coverage to other events, producing selective attention to events; (3) news assignments tend to be repetitive in that reporters tend to be regularly assigned to places where they and other reporters have found news sources and newsworthy events in the past; (4) the assignment of reporters to regularly cover certain people and places relates to the efforts of news workers to routinize their work, including unexpected, unplanned events; (5) news selection decisions often are derived from group process, and also provide for the sharing of blame in the event errors are made; (6) news workers often resort to negotiations to ease the decision-making process, prevent confrontations and reduce the need to resort to power; (7) both editors and reporters have power; editors are granted theirs directly in the formal organization and reporters develop theirs by developing expertise in covering their responsibility areas (especially beats); and (8) reporters exercise substantial influence on decisionmaking through their access to, and control of, information which is raw input for their organization.

COVERAGE OF THE ARAB WORLD AND ISRAEL IN AMERICAN NEWS MAGAZINES BETWEEN 1975 AND 1981: A COMPARATIVE CONTENT ANALYSIS

Order No. DA8424222

GHANDOUR, NABIHA HABBAB, ED.D. *Columbia University Teachers College*, 1984. 257pp. Sponsor: Professor William C. Sayres

This study was a quantitative and qualitative content analysis of the coverage of Arab States in *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *U.S. News and World Report* during the period from January 1975 to December 1981.

The research suggested that these magazines were widely read and of substantial influence among U.S. secondary school students. The universe of the textual data for the analysis was all articles in the three magazines.

The analysis focused on: (1) the intensity of coverage of Arab States and Israel; (2) the subject matter of articles on Arab States and Israel; (3) the evaluative dimension of references to particular states and to Arab and Israeli personalities; and (4) the trends in these dimensions over the seven year period.

With respect to intensity, the magazines were found to contain a disproportionately large number of articles on Israel in contrast to Arab States.

With respect to the topics covered in articles concerned with Arab States and Israel, the analysis indicated that articles on Israel tended to concern human interest and domestic affairs topics, while articles on the Arabs were far more likely to concern violence and terrorism, military issues and economic affairs.

The analysis of the evaluative dimension suggested that references to Israel were likely to be more favorable than references to the U.S., and references to Arabs were relatively unfavorable not only in the context of the military affairs or violence, but even when the topic was domestic issues or human interest.

The analysis of trends in coverage indicated that the more favorable coverage of Arabs was mitigated to some extent following 1977. However, this trend was attributed entirely to favorable coverage given to Sadat and Egypt following Sadat's visit to Israel and the Camp David accords. Other Arab States and leaders continued to be referred to just as unfavorably as in the earliest years under study.

Among the implications addressed were the need to regularize news coverage so as to eliminate the crisis orientation of coverage, the need for professional journalists to be trained to guard against bias, and the need for educators to make their students aware of bias and to teach them critical reading skills.

THE OBITUARY OF A MACHINE: THE RISE AND FALL OF OTTMAR MERGENTHALER'S LINOTYPE AT U.S. NEWSPAPERS

Order No. DA8501427

GOBLE, GEORGE CORBAN, PH.D. *Indiana University*, 1984. 486pp.

This historical study examines the rise and fall of the Linotype hot-metal composing machine within the context of its wide utilization at U.S. newspapers. This role is only briefly presented in existing journalism and printing histories.

The dissertation chronicles the lengthy inventive process leading to Ottmar Mergenthaler's "Machine for Producing Printing Bars" and subsequent Linotype models. It describes the Linotype's first commercial use in 1886 at a newspaper published by a member of a select publishers' syndicate formed to develop and promote the machine. It focuses on the extensive involvement of economic, social and legal factors in two periods of technological change: the Linotype's rise beginning in the 1890s and its fall in the years following World War II. It concentrates on the Linotype's history up to 1911, the year before significant patents expired and competing linecasters broke apart the stoutly-held monopoly maintained by the Linotype company in the U.S. marketplace. It follows Mergenthaler after his 1888 estrangement from the company bearing his name and describes later recognitions for and assessments of the German-born American inventor.

From a wide array of devices and processes invented to mechanize hand composition, the Linotype evolved as the primary machine for composing type more cheaply and faster. The Linotype allowed publishers to print "increased reading matter" by eliminating a major production bottleneck, led to greater newspaper profits, and contributed broadly to the growth and expansion of newspapers. Its use encouraged adoption of typewriters in newsrooms. The Linotype's introduction brought widespread technological unemployment to typographers in the mid-1890s, and their union's moves to regulate use of composing machines greatly increased labor's influence and long-lasting importance in newspaper publishing.

Nearly 100 years ago, the Linotype was hailed as a "revolutionary machine" whose time had come. It became intimately enmeshed with newspaper production, labor concerns and publishers' policies. Predictions that it would "come to stay" proved untrue: it was not indispensable. The second revolution, with its phototypesetters, offset printing and front-end editing systems, has now led to virtual displacement of the Linotype itself. By 1984 only a handful of weekly newspapers continued to use the hot-metal process.

IMAGES OF, AND ATTITUDES TOWARD, THE ARABS AND THE ISRAELIS IN THE AMERICAN PRESTIGE PRESS--JUNE 1, 1980-May 31, 1983: A CONTENT ANALYSIS

Order No. DA8501829

HASHEM, MAHBOUB EDMOND, PH.D. *The Florida State University*, 1984. 318pp. Major Professors: Theodore Clevenger, Jr., C. Edward Wotring

The purpose of this study was to determine the nature of three leading American newsmagazines' image of, and related attitude toward, both the Arabs and the Israelis during the period of two years before and one year after Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Newsweek, Time, and U.S. News and World Report were selected. News and editorials for the period June 1, 1980 through May 31, 1983 were examined and content analyzed. The period of the study was divided into twelve quarter blocks. Editorials were analyzed separately. A systematic sample was drawn from news topics and items. Every third column-inch from a random start was analyzed. The unit of analysis was the term (adjectives, nouns, verbs, adverbs). A category system was developed. Each nation constituted a major category. Nation in general, people, leaders, institution, policies/actions, economy, religion, location, and other were subcategories. Evaluative terms were used to measure the magazines' attitude; whereas evaluative and descriptive terms were used to detect the image. The author and two American graduate students coded the data.

Major findings were: (1) There was a shift, mostly negative, toward the Israelis, and a quite similar shift, somewhat positive, toward the Arabs. (2) Economy, policies/actions, and leaders were the major sub-elements hurting Israel's image. (3) Institutions, people, and extremist leaders along with their policies and actions were the principal sub-elements affecting Arab nations' image. (4) "Oil-rich" Arab countries and those involved in direct conflict with Israel received much more attention than other Arab nations. (5) Arab nations received slightly higher favorable and neutral percent evaluations than Israel in the news articles and items. The Editorials were slightly more favorable toward Israel than the Arab nations. (6) All three newsmagazines assigned both the Arabs and the Israelis more negative terms than positive or neutral ones.

SCIENCE AND THE PRESS IN TAIWAN--AN ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND SCIENCE JOURNALISTS

Order No. DA8502183

HSIEH, YING-CHUN, PH.D. *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*, 1984. 340pp.

This study investigates the relationship between scientists and science journalists in Taiwan. It argues that the relationship between the two is poor and needs to be improved in light of the increasing importance of accurate science news communication. A research model states that science news communication is a function of scientists, science journalists, the newspapers, and other factors. Ten hypotheses were stated, based on previous studies and developed from this research model.

The investigation of the relationship between scientists and science journalists was based on the responses of science journalists, active scientists, less-active scientists, and decision makers to mail questionnaires and personal interviews, which were analyzed through qualitative and quantitative methods.

Results show that contact between scientists and science journalists, and experience, the educational background and the newspaper organization of science journalists are important factors contributing to the nature and quality of science news in Taiwan's newspapers.

This study suggests that cooperation among the scientific establishment (including the National Science Council), the scientific community, the journalistic community (including science journalists and the newspaper management) and universities and colleges would improve the present state of science news communication. Further studies are also recommended for a better understanding of the communication of science information via mass media.

GLOBAL NEWS-FLOW ISSUES: TOWARD A CONVERGENT PERSPECTIVE

Order No. DA8426412

ISELEMA, MINABERE, PH.D. *The Ohio State University*, 1984. 199pp. Adviser: Professor Robert B. Monaghan

Global news-flow has been a subject of intense controversy for sometime now. Developing countries contend that international news dissemination is dominated by the Western news media, and that those media unduly portray them in a negative light. They see their sovereignty, independence and well-being threatened by the status quo, and accordingly they advocate a "new" international information order." But critics of the advocacy see it differently. To them, at issue is the freedom of the press and the right of the news media to operate as they see fit. This study is an attempt to integrate the two perspectives. Three questions are examined: (1) What is the nature of the problems of global news-flow, (2) To what degree are the roots of the problems internal to developing countries, and to what degree are they external, and (3) What measures are necessary to redress the problems?

Theory and Method. The questions are approached from the frameworks of Galtung's Center-Periphery model and Jacobson's subsystems concept. It is argued that correspondents from developing countries transcend the two contending perspectives on global news-flow and are therefore in the position to articulate a convergent perspective.

Thirty-eight correspondents from twenty-three developing countries were interviewed. The correspondents, all resident in New York and Washington, D.C., were selected to represent Africa (Sub-Sahara), Asia, Central America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Yugoslavia. The views they expressed during the unstructured interviews were analyzed qualitatively, with frequency-of-mention and percentage figures reported to aid the analysis.

Findings and Conclusions. The correspondents believe that the U.S. media do not apply to developing countries the same level of journalistic standards and ethics that they apply to domestic coverage; and that they cover other countries favorably or unfavorably depending on the level of cultural, economic and political consonance between the U.S. and the country covered. But given the constraints on journalistic independence in the developing countries, the correspondents see reliance on American and other Western news media as the lesser evil than the alternative. The constraints derive mainly from an acute lack of opportunities and feudal relational patterns, which necessitate conformism among journalists.

SPECIAL PRIVILEGE FOR AN AUTONOMOUS PRESS: JUSTICE STEWART'S STRUCTURAL APPROACH

Order No. DA8425128

JOHNSON, GEORGE CARL, PH.D. *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*, 1984. 273pp. Major Professor: Dr. Harry W. Stonecipher

Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart argued in his Yale Law School Sesquicentennial Convocation address on November 2, 1974, that the American press, despite mounting criticism, was performing the precise function that the Framers of the Constitution had intended. Two postulates of his address were that the Press Clause of the First Amendment was a "structural" provision to the Constitution, and that the Framers intended to form a fourth institution outside the three official branches of government.

Justice Stewart's address touched off a debate both inside and outside the court. This study examined this debate and focused on the main question of whether there is a legal basis for the institutional press being afforded a special privilege under the Press Clause of the First Amendment as advocated by Justice Stewart in his Yale Law School address. The corollary questions focused on Justice Stewart's opinions written before and after his Yale Law School address; how the United States Supreme Court differentiated between the Press Clause and Speech Clause in First Amendment litigation; and how successful the news media was in seeking special privileges under the Press Clause as newsgatherers.

All of Justice Stewart's First Amendment opinions were examined including his Circuit Court of Appeals and Supreme Court decisions, and generally, he was found to be consistent in his opinions. The study found a legal basis for press claims for at least a qualified First Amendment-based privilege which goes beyond privileges afforded the general public. The press has been more successful at acquiring these limited privileges by arguing for protection of its newsgathering role in society, but there are no guarantees that the press will succeed in all cases.

THE FICTION OF FACT: TOWARD A JOURNALISTIC AESTHETIC

Order No. DA8428255

JONES, DAN RICHARD, PH.D. *The University of Iowa*, 1984. 218pp. Supervisor: Professor Albert E. Stone

The aesthetic dimension of the New Journalism has never been adequately assessed. This aspect of the genre is typically characterized as a function of the adaptation of literary technique to factual content. Such an approach characterizes particular texts as assemblages of facts and fictional devices, but fails to apprehend the quality of aesthetic experience as understood by readers.

That experience is best understood as a social experience. The genre is properly characterized not as a series of texts which display a variety of technical qualities, but rather as an attempt by a culture to deal with social change. New Journalism was born during a period of cultural discohesion; a historical review reveals that similar periods of transformation have produced similar kinds of journalistic response. Relying on concepts drawn from symbolic interactionism, it is apparent that the primary need of the self during such periods of change is for symbols capable of encompassing new and unprecedented realities within the boundaries of familiar value systems. New Journalism, and new journalism generally, do not initiate change; rather, they respond to change by adapting existing symbolic forms to unfamiliar circumstances. Particular texts are perceived as shared social objects; the experience of reading such texts, which reaffirm cultural values as they reunite self and society, is best described as aesthetic.

Analyses of three texts demonstrate these concepts. John Hersey's *Hiroshima* is often cited as a predecessor to New Journalism. Hersey extracts from the chaos produced by the first military use of the atomic bomb a vision of order, reinforced by subtle allusions to Western value systems. Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* takes an event which lies at the boundary of cultural consciousness--mass murder--and makes of it a parable, based on familiar popular images, which testifies to the resilience of American core values. Tom Wolfe's *Radical Chic and Mau-Mauing the Flak Catchers* converts social concerns into objects of amusement, allaying readers' fears of social disintegration and thus stabilizing the culture's symbolic environment. All three works produce satisfying aesthetic experiences for readers by rendering comprehensible, in terms of familiar symbolic strategies, otherwise anomalous events.

A CONTENT ANALYSIS OF *THE NEW YORK TIMES* AND *ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH* COVERAGE OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT FROM JUNE 6, 1982 - FEBRUARY 12, 1983

Order No. DA8504368

LALEHPARVARAN, PARVIN, ED.D. *Oklahoma State University*, 1984. 107pp. Adviser: William R. Steng

Scope and Method of Study. World attention focused on Palestinians and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, hundreds of Palestinian refugees were killed in the September 1982 Beirut massacre. This study concerned the news coverage of Arabs and Israelis before, during and after the Beirut Massacre in *The New York Times* and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The method used in this study was content analysis; forty key symbols pertaining to the Arab-Israeli Conflict were chosen for analysis. This writer content analyzed all news articles published in *The New York Times* and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* pertaining to the Arab-Israeli Conflict between June 6, 1982, and February 12, 1983. Symbols were coded according to their predication--strength plus, morality plus, strength minus, morality minus and neutral. The data were grouped into three phases, Phase I, before the Beirut Massacre; Phase II, during the Beirut Massacre; and Phase III, after the Beirut Massacre. Three-way frequency analyses were completed, juxtaposing: (1) Parties to the Conflict, (2) The two newspapers and (3) Prediction of direction of symbol usage in news columns.

Findings and Conclusions. The findings showed that before the massacre, there were more favorable than unfavorable symbols about Israelis, but there were more unfavorable than favorable symbols about Arabs in both papers. During the Massacre, The *New York Times* and *St.Louis Post-Dispatch* presented more favorable symbols about Arabs. As for Israelis, more favorable symbols were found in the *New York Times* during this phase. The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* carried 11 equally positive and negative symbols relevant to Israelis. In Phase III, the period after the Massacre both newspapers presented Arabs in a positive context and Israelis in a negative context. Overall, not enough background information on the conflict was provided in either newspaper. The writer recommends that both newspapers provide sufficient background and history on the conflict and also provide readers additional information on the Palestine question, which is a central issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

THE DERIVED IMAGE OF THE SUPERMARKET TABLOID

Order No. DA8426438

MACDONALD, DEBORAH M., PH.D. *The Ohio State University*, 1984. 189pp. Adviser: Dr. Thomas McCain

Each week over 11 million supermarket tabloids are sold in the United States. These periodicals such as the *National Enquirer* have become a pervasive medium. The tabloids are a journalistic success story, yet critics feel that they represent yellow journalism at its worst. A libel judgemet awarded to entertainer Carol Burnett has shown the public that the *National Enquirer*, at least, is capable of printing what it knows to be erroneous in order to produce a sensational story. This investigation was conducted in order to determine what perceptions people have formed regarding this relatively unstudied media form. Specifically, this study sought to determine the derived image of the tabloids, and to whatextent tabloid readership is a function of level of image and low-taste orientation.

A random telephone survey was conducted which resulted in 363 completed interviews--179 from respondents who claimed to have read a tabloid in the last five years and 184 from respondents who had not.

The data revealed that overall, the derived image of the supermarket tabloiks does not appear to be a very positive one, particularly in the areas of credibility, utility and perceived readership (in terms of why people read). Positive perceptions of the tabloids

focused on their ability to pass time, their cheap price, upbeat quality and dynamism. Level and type of experience does seem to have an effect on the image that is held on the tabloids. Most notable, those respondents who had only inderect experience with the tabloids in the form of mass media and interpersonal messages (nonreaders), were most likely to hold negative tabloid perceptions. In terms of low-taste orientation, both regular and occasional tabloid readers seemed to exhibit more of a preference for low-taste media content than did nonreaders. The data also indicated that tabloid readers do not appear to be a homogeneous grup, and probable reader segments include believers, light-hearted readers and readers who feel guilty about reading.

This study represents an attempt at better understanding some of the dynamics of the tabloid phenomenon. The findings of this study should prove useful for those researchers who choose to further explore this area where more exploration seems required.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION

Order No. DA8425241

MALEKZADEH, ABBAS, PH.D. *The American University*, 1984. 293pp.

It is generally argued that in American society the press plays an important role in foreign policy process. This study focuses on the performance of "the most elite" newspaper, the *New York Times*, and compares the "paper's foreign policy" with the official U.S. policy in regard to Iran.

Three specific time periods have been studied in this dissertation: (1) 1968-1978, a decade prior to the Iranian revolution; (2) 1978-1979, era of the revolution; and (3) 1979-1981, the hostage "crisis". The *New York Times* editorials and the *Department of State Bulletin* were selected as two sources for a systematic qualitative and quantitative analysis to test a number of hypotheses developed in this study.

The results of the study revealed that the *New York Times* and the U.S. Government had a very similar, and "positive" attitude toward Iran for a decade prior to the revolution. There were no significant differences between the two sources between 1968-1978.

The Iranian revolution marked a significant shift in the *New York Times'* approach towards that country: first, by criticizing the royal regime and then by initiating a critical approach in its analysis of past U.S. policies toward Iran. For the first time, there was a significantly meaningful difference between the *New York Times* editorials and the U.S. policy reflected in the *Department of State Bulletin*.

The hostage crisis, however, created a situation as a result of which both sources once again took similar approach towards Iran and Iranian affairs. This time, the *New York Times* and the *Department of State Bulletin* portrayed Iran in a very "unfavorable" light.

In conclusion, this study suggests that the lack of critical analysis on the part of the *New York Times*, could be considered a contributing factor in the failure of American policies toward Iran. Although the study did not investigate a causal relationship between the *New York Times* editorials and the outcome of the U.S. foreign policy, it was demonstrated that changes observed in the editorials position followed by changes in U.S. official foreign policies.

THE CREATION OF NEWSWORTHY EVENTS: AN ANALYSIS OF NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THE MAN-MADE DISASTER AT LOVE CANAL

Order No. DA8426071

PLOUGHMAN, PENELOPE DENISE, PH.D. *State University of New York at Buffalo*, 1984. 514pp.

This thesis tested the proposition that news coverage is differentially distributed in contemporary United States society. It tested that proposition among three categories of newsmakers--Government, Business, and Residents--who were competing to have their version of the events surrounding the Love Canal disaster made known through the mass media.

The mass media analyzed for their coverage of man-made disaster at Love Canal were one local newspaper *(The Niagara Falls Gazette)*, one regional newspaper *(The Buffalo News)*, and one national newspaper *(The New York Times)*.

For each newspaper, for the time period August 2, 1978, through October 2, 1980, articles and editorials were analyzed separately to determine the frequency of coverage received by the three major newsmakers over time. In addition, editorials were analyzed for their favorability toward each newsmaker, and the articles were analyzed on the dimensions of frequency, prominence and amount of coverage.

The major findings were that despite the fact that Government received the majority of coverage, the organized Residents of Love Canal did on more than one occasion have both amounts and types of news coverage that were comparable to that received by Government. Furthermore, in contrast to the expectation that Business, like Government, would be a significant newsmaker, it was the Residents, rather than Business, who received the second most frequent amount of coverage in all three types of newspapers. And it was found that the Love Canal Homeowners Association was the single most frequently coveraged individual newsmaker in all three newspapers.

From the analysis of differential editorial coverage, it was found that over 88% of the Residents total editorial coverage (all three newspapers combined) was positive, in contrast to only 36% of the Government's coverage and only 26% of the Business newsmakers editorial coverage.

It was concluded that the fact that the Residents of Love Canal were able to maintain a considerable level of coverage (and favorable coverage) throughout the extended duration of the event was significant in and of itself and in contrast to previous studies.

HOMICIDE AND BARGAINED JUSTICE: THE AGENDA-SETTING EFFECT OF CRIME NEWS ON PROSECUTORS

Order No. DA8414284

PRITCHARD, DAVID HEMMINGS, PH.D. *The University of Wisconsin - Madison*, 1984. 197pp. Supervisor: Professor William Hachten

This dissertation addresses two issues: the relationship between the race of homicide suspects and victims; and the relationship between how newspapers cover homicide and whether cases against homicide suspects are plea bargained. Specifically, the study tested the suggestion by some press critics that minority homicide is covered less extensively than white homicide. The study also hypothesizes that the more extensive the coverage, the less likely a case is to be plea bargained. The raw data included information from police and court records of 90 homicide cases in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, and the 744 staff-written news items published about those homicides in the Milwaukee *Journal* and *Sentinel*.

The results show that the Milwaukee newspapers cover white homicide more extensively and more fairly than minority homicide. They also show that how extensively the newspapers cover a homicide helps determine whether the case gets plea bargained. The relationships are statistically significant, and hold even when possibly confounding factors are controlled.

SOME EFFECTS OF THE REPETITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS STORIES: AN EXPERIMENT **Order No. DA8429617**

SAATHOFF, ROGER C., PH.D. *The University of Tennessee*, 1984. 180pp. Major Professor: Dr. Jack Haskins

Much of the content of the mass media is repetitious, at least at a topical level. Certainly one reason for this is the beat system employed by most news-gathering organizations. By assigning reporters to cover traditional news sources, the media are assured of receiving reports about the same news topics on a continuing basis. Does this topical repetition have any expected or unexpected effects on media audiences?

To address this question, the author designed an experiment involving 158 students as subjects. The subjects read either one, five, nine or nineteen news stories about a repeated news topic over a two-week period. The subjects were measured on five dependent variables both before and after the experimental treatments. The five dependent variables were reading interest, information seeking, information utility, information utility to others and numbers of times topic is discussed.

An analysis of variance and an analysis of covariance using the pre-test as the covariate, were performed to measure changes in the dependent variables. The author hypothesized that the measures of the dependent variables would display an inverted-U relationship with increasing numbers of repetitions, indicating a type of satiation factor at work.

Only one dependent variable, reading interest, displayed such a relationship. The author concludes that the use of a validated measurement item for the reading interest variable probably contributed to the results. The other variables were measured with items adapted or created for this study. Better measures may have reflected the inverted-U relationship in all variables.

PRINTERS AND PRESS FREEDOM: THE IDEOLOGY OF EARLY AMERICAN JOURNALISM **Order No. DA8424533**

SMITH, JEFFERY ALAN, PH.D. *The University of Wisconsin - Madison*, 1984. 336pp. Supervisor: Assistant Professor James Lewis Baughman

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution protects "freedom of the press," but jurists and legal historians have not agreed on what this term meant to those who wrote and ratified the Bill of Rights. One view is that it meant only freedom from prior restraint and did not include a right to publish statements defaming government or questioning the conduct of public officials. Others have argued that the press clause was based on libertarian principles and was intended to do away with seditious libel, the crime of criticizing government.

This study examines libertarian press theory in eighteenth-century America and concludes that it rested upon rejection of most of the press controls employed in England, understandings of the marketplace of ideas concept, and acceptance of Enlightenment approaches to matters of political structure and societal progress. Of particular importance was the widely accepted "radical Whig" ideology promulgated by the authors of *Cato's Letters*, Thomas Jefferson, and others. The radical Whigs thought of a free press as a necessary check on government and as a right appropriate to governmental systems with popular sovereignty. Accordingly, they made distinctions between lawful criticisms of political policies and official conduct and possibly unlawful attacks on personal reputation.

The study also considers the practices of journalists and provides evidence that even at an early point in the development of American journalism those who found themselves in conflict with authority readily employed libertarian press theory to justify their actions. Party controversies, it is suggested, played a major role in the development of libertarian press theory by prompting politicians and publishers to articulate positions on journalistic rights.

Particular attention is given to the experiences of Benjamin Franklin and his relatives and associates who were printers. Franklin and the printers he worked with were the most prominent network of journalists in the country. They committed themselves to maintaining free and open presses, but were sometimes reluctant to print party diatribes and personal defamation.

THE ATTITUDES OF NEWS DIRECTORS TOWARD THE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE **Order No. DA8503941**

TAYLOR, JOHN WALLACE, PH.D. *Ohio University*, 1984. 168pp. Director of Dissertation: Dr. Guido H. Stempel III

This study investigated the attitudes of radio and television news directors toward the fairness doctrine.

Specifically, the study was directed toward four hypotheses concerning attitudes toward the fairness doctrine as they varied by the news director's age, number of years in the field, market size, news staff size and education level. Data were collected from a nationwide systematic random selection of 150 radio news directors and 150 television news directors.

The author developed a questionnaire to collect data on attitudes for this study. A five point Likert-type scale was used for rating the thirteen attitudinal items. The ranking of eleven items for their ability to inhibit one from covering controversial issues and five open-ended questions were also included.

The survey results in this study indicate radio news directors and television news directors do not demonstrate a significant difference in their attitudes toward the fairness doctrine. A statistically significant chi-square value and significance level occurs in only one item. However, the results do indicate that there is overall a clear tendency for radio news directors to be more favorably disposed to the fairness doctrine than television news directors.

THE NEW YORK PENNY PRESS AND THE AMERICAN ROMANTIC MOVEMENT. (VOLUMES I AND II) **Order No. DA8423609**

WHITBY, GARY LAMAR, PH.D. *The University of Iowa*, 1984. 847pp. Supervisor: Professor John Erickson

The New York penny press has been regarded as having had a major influence on the received definition of American news. Beginning in 1833 with the publication of Benjamin Day's *New York Sun*--and later including such newspapers as the New York *Herald*, New York *Tribune*, and New York *Times*--, the penny press soon came to command the New York news industry with spiraling circulations that doubled and tripled those of the commercial and political presses. From 1833 to 1861, the penny press became perhaps the single most influential kind of newspaper in New York City.

Running concurrently with the development of the penny press was the American romantic movement, which, beginning in New York and the Northeast in the late 18th century and triumphing by 1830, came to be a powerful influence on American art and literature.

This dissertation seeks to trace how American romanticism affected the development of the penny press in such areas as content, style, social reform, and the overall mission of the penny papers. Primary data from three penny papers--the New York *Sun*, *Herald*, and *Tribune*--are examined this for romantic characteristics defined in early chapters. The study draws on secondary materials for a working definition of romanticism and, later, information relating to anti-slavery.

The dissertation concludes with a case study which examines romantic elements of news in the three papers' handling of the anti-slavery movement and attempts to determine to what extent each paper was romanticized in the process of handling the movement.

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